Environmental Info

COLE HARDWARE GREEN CERTIFIED

GOOD FOR THE EARTH — WE TAKE ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT!

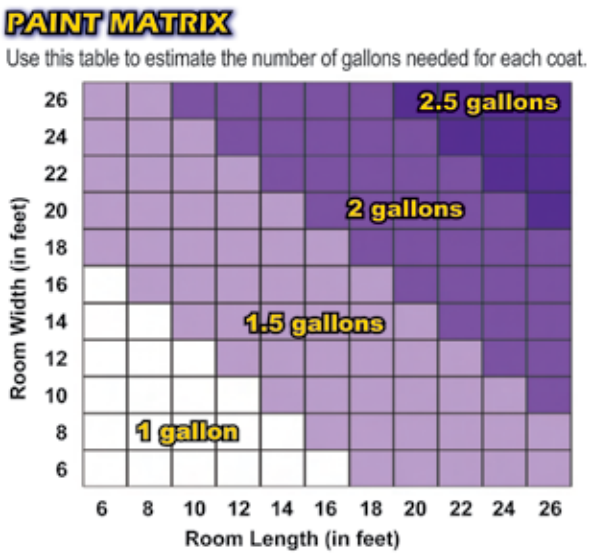
Be Paint Wi$e Partnership a Year Later

A year ago Cole Hardware joined with the Be Paint Wi$e Partnership to educate consumers on how to estimate the correct amount of paint for their painting projects, while continuing to take back S.F. residents' leftover latex paint. In this past year, Cole Hardware stores have collected over 8,000 gallons of paint. But do you know what happens to your leftover latex paint after you bring it to one of our stores?

In San Francisco, Recology—the City's hauling company—has been remixing paint for reuse for 20 years! The household hazardous waste team at Recology takes the latex paint collected from participating retail stores like ours back to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility on Tunnel Avenue and sorts out the good (reusable) from the bad. The facility doesn't remix paint that is rusty or moldy or too thick from drying out over the years. The paints that are good quality and make the cut to be remixed are sorted into warm and cool colors in large mixing drums. Once the paints are fully blended, they are poured into 5-gallon buckets. The recycled latex paint is then available for free to San Francisco residents and businesses on a first-come basis. Call Recology at **415/330-1405** for more details.

Reuse is the highest use for discarded and unwanted paint, and the Be Paint Wi$e Partnership has been educating people about paint reuse as one aspect of their project.

In the end, the best way to avoid excess paint is to calculate properly before you purchase paint for your project. Using this chart can help you correctly estimate the amount of paint to purchase. You can also pick up one of these cards at our stores or ask a paint sales associate to help you determine the right amount of paint.



More information about the Be Paint Wi$e Partnership project is available at the California Product Stewardship Council's website, **www.calpsc.org** (look for Paint Grant under the Projects tab).

Cole Hardware: Partnering to Make a Difference

By Annie Joseph, Our Water, Our World

For the past 10 years, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has been helping local residents to make a difference in their own backyards by sponsoring a water pollution prevention program called Our Water, Our World (OWOW).

The OWOW program is a partnership between the SFPUC and local retail nurseries and hardware stores who sell pesticides. The garden staff at Cole Hardware has been trained in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and in how to reduce pesticides and other pollutants from running off local gardens into the Bay.

Through this training, they have learned how to troubleshoot pest problems using the following five steps:

- Monitoring for pests and diseases to catch them before they get out of hand
- Cultural controls, which are horticultural practices that can reduce pest populations, such as using organic fertilizers to encourage slow, steady growth that will be less attractive to aphids and white flies
- Physical controls, like cutting off a diseased branch or handpicking snails and slugs
- Biological controls, such as encouraging ladybugs, lacewings, and birds to help manage the pest damage

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— Rick Karp, President, aka Keeper of the Karma

Recycle at Cole Hardware!

Bring to any of our four stores:

CELL PHONES:
Personal cell phones—batteries and chargers not required. PLEASE, no cordless home phones, car phones, walkie-talkies, pagers or two-way radios.

BATTERIES:
Rechargeable (NiCad, NiMH) and household (alkaline and carbon).

OLD LATEX PAINT:

- Recycle dry, clean, empty metal paint cans through your regular trash pickup. The latex paint containers you bring us should have paint in them!
- The ORIGINAL label on each can must CLEARLY state "latex," "acrylic," or "water-based" paint. No handwritten labels will be accepted.
- Be sure that lids are SEALED ON TIGHT and containers are rust-free and don't leak.
- You must not be a commercial paint user.
- Please limit your drop-offs to no more than 10 gallon-size containers (or 40 quart-size containers or a combination of both) at a time. Containers are counted by size, not by the volume of paint they contain.
- Take paint to the customer service desk.
- PLEASE, no brushes or rags!

PROPANE TANKS:
Small (14 or 16.9 oz.), empty, nonrefillable propane cylinders only. Household only. Limit 5 per visit.

SPENT FLUORESCENT BULBS:
CFLs, tubes up to 8 feet, U- and D-shaped tubes. Drop-off limit is 10 bulbs.

SCRAP METAL:
Copper and brass.

EXPIRED PRINTER CARTRIDGES:
Must be in plastic bags to avoid leakage.

SOFT PLASTIC RECYCLING:
Clean plastic only. Households only. One basketball-size amount per visit please.

For Bay Area recycling resources, visit
www.colehardware.com/recycle.htm